

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 /091 W

----- 002105

R 310855Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4172

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENTIANE 3898

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LA, US

SUBJECT: WHY ARE THE PATHET LAO BEING SO BEASTLY?

1. THE PERIOD SINCE MAY 9, 1975 IN LAOS HAS BEEN MARKED BY A SERIES OF ACTS AGAINST AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND AMERICAN PREMISES. THEY HAVE EITHER BEEN COMMITTED BY THE PATHET LAO OR INSPIRED BY THEM SINCE THESE ACTS ARE OBVIOUSLY PART OF A DELIBERATE AND ORCHESTRATED PROGRAM, THE QUESTION ARISES AS TO WHY SUCH A CAMPAIGN IS BEING CONDUCTED.

2. ONE GOAL COULD, OF COURSE, BE THAT THE PATHET LAO WISH TO DRIVE ALL AMERICANS FROM LAOS, END ASSISTANCE AND SEVER DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS TO BE THE CASE, NOT JUST BECAUSE MANY PATHET LAO  
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HAVE TOLD US THEY WISH TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AID AND

MAINTAIN RELATIONS, BUT BECAUSE IT IS MANIFESTLY IN  
THEIR INTEREST TO DO SO. LAOS HAS POTENTIAL RESOURCES,  
BUT IT BADLY NEEDS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOP THEM.  
AT PRESENT IT HAS ONLY VERY LIMITED SOURCES OF FOREIGN  
EXCHANGE. THE UNITED STATES (IN ITS ECONOMIC AND  
MILITARY ASSISTANCE) GIVES LAOS MORE THAN TWICE AS MUCH  
AID AS ALL OTHER SOURCES COMBINED. IT IS PROBABLE THAT,  
WERE AMERICAN ASSISTANCE ELIMINATED, COMMUNIST NATIONS  
WOULD INCREASE THEIR ASSISTANCE AND SOME OTHER THIRD WORLD  
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PAGE 01 VIENTI 03898 02 OF 02 311001Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VIENTIANE 3898

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

D) THE PATHET LAO MAY FEEL THAT NOT ONLY DO WE WANT TO ASSIST THEM BUT THAT WE WILL WANT MANY PEOPLE HERE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OUR "PRESENCE" IN THE FACE OF OUR SOVIET AND CHINESE RIVALS. BY MAKING THINGS AS UNPLEASANT AS POSSIBLE FOR US AND DISPLAYING THEIR OWN POWER, THEY PERHAPS BELIEVE THAT WE WILL MINIMIZE OUR "PRESENCE". THEY SEE IT AS PART OF THE BARGAINING PROCESS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN A MORE FORMAL WAY IN OUR FUTURE BILATERAL TALKS ON CONTINUED ASSISTANCE.

E) ANOTHER REASON FOR TAKING ACTIONS PARTICULARLY AGAINST USAID MAY BE THAT IT WAS A GENERALLY UNPOPULAR ORGANIZATION AMONG "PROGRESSIVE" LAO IN WHAT HAS BEEN THE VIENTIANE SIDE ZONE. ITS PERVASIVENESS AND APPEARANCE OF BEING A PARALLEL GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION CAUSED CONSIDERABLE RESENTMENT FROM MANY WHO AT THE SAME TIME ENJOYED ITS BENEFITS, PARTICULARLY YOUNGER LAO.

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F) THE PATHET LAO, IN STANDARD COMMUNIST FASHION, MAY WANT TO APPEAR TO BE RESPONDING TO POPULAR DEMAND IN THEIR OUSTER OF USAID. SUCH DEMAND, THEREFORE, HAD TO BE CREATED. WHAT BETTER WAY THAN DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND OCCUPATION OF THE USAID COMPOUND? WHEN THE PGNU DID FINALLY FORMALLY ASK THE UNITED STATES TO DISSOLVE USAID, WHICH WE HAD MADE PLAIN WE WERE QUITE PREPARED TO DO, THE GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO APPEAR TO BE RESPONDING TO THE OVERWHILMING DESIRE OF THE PEOPLE.

G) THERE MAY HAVE BEEN JUST A SIMPLE DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE PATHET LAO, WHO HAVE AFTER ALL SPENT TWENTY YEARS IN THE JUNGLE LARGELY BECAUSE OF AMERICAN ACTIVITIES, TO HUMILIATE THE UNITED STATES. IT WOULD BE ONLY HUMAN TO TAKE SOME REVENGE WHEN ONE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY AND ONE'S OPPONENT APPEARED WEAK.

5. CONSLUSION: THE ABOVE ARE SUGGESTIONS AS TO PATHET LAO ATTITUDES AND MOTIVATIONS. IT MAY JUST BE THAT ASKING USAID TO GO AND PROVIDING TRUCKS TO HELP IT DO SO IS TOO STRAIGHTFORWARD A PROCEDURE FOR THE LAO COMMUNISTS' SUSPICIOUS MINDS. CONVINCED THAT WE WOULD TRY VERY HARD TO STAY IN LARGE NUMBERS, THEY DISREGARDED OUR STATEMENTS THAT WE WERE PREPARED TO GO AND GROUND THROUGH A PROGRAM PREPARED BY SOME AGIT PROP CADRE IN SAM NEVA. WE DO NOT YET KNOW IF IT HAS RUN ITS COURSE. HARRASSMENT CONTINUES. IT MAY WELL BE THAT IF THE PLANNED NEGOTIATIONS FOR OUR FUTURE ASSISTANCE DO NOT GO AS

DESIRED OR IF CONGRESS SHOWS LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR CONTINUED AID, THAT WE WILL GET ANOTHER DOSE OF THE STICK.  
CHAPMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, HARASSMENT, COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 MAY 1975  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2003  
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Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WHY ARE THE PATHET LAO BEING SO BEASTLY?  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, LA, US, PATHET LAO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006